The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the International, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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North American Trade Union Movement Leads World

"One of those old line trade unions which are interested in getting 5 cents more per hour for the rank and file of its membership, but not one of those trade unions which are open to the new truth and are preparing its members to take control of the future of mankind."

The above sneer is included in a letter by Upton Sinclair in some controversy he has with a writers' organization.

How familiar it sounds!

How it recalls the mildewed phrases of 25 years ago when tomorrow's sun would greet the revolution! And when the deposing of Sam Gompers would be the final push that would bring the present order crashing to the ground!

Except to revolutionists and intelligentsia, such terms as "old line trade unions" have no significance.

Some of the hardest battles in the industrial history of this country have been waged by so-called "old line trade unions."

They were the rallying point in the fight for direct legislation, the secret ballot, and free textbooks.

They started the fight against autocratic control of industry. They have destroyed the serf ideal—that workers stand with hat in hand before the boss.

Today there are no more independent and sturdier citizens than these same trade unionists? Who can lead them? Who can order them? Who can cajole them?

This spirit is everything. It excels all the resolutions written, revolutions blue-pointed, and programs urged. It is the foundation of collective progress and individual development. It is trade unionism's greatest triumph.

These unions are active in every movement that increases the intelligence and widens the capacity of their members.

Not only in better working conditions, with resultant better homes and healthier children, but unionism is the one force that arouses the people to endangered liberty and encroachment by privilege.

And this when critics sneer "5-cent increases" and jabber their phrases about future civilizations.

And this when the intelligentsia languidly flecks the ashes from his cigarette and yawns advice to "the working class."

But suppose these trade unions did nothing but raise wages. That alone would justify their existence. Let our dilittante critics read what the United States children's bureau has to say on the number of baby deaths due to low wages.

These trade unions do more, however. They establish labor papers, operate banks and co-operative stores, maintain labor colleges, homes for aged members, labor headquarters, life insurance, health insurance and old age pensions.

Every form of education and collective action is fostered and encouraged by them. Their standards of yesterday are rejected as they plant their banner of progress one step forward, today, tomorrow, and always.

No institution in the world can equal the progress and development of the North American trade unionists the past 25 years. Their independence, their standard of living, their capacity can not be approximated in any other trade union movement on earth.

Other movements may be more theatrical, but for things accomplished the trade union movement of this continent is incomparable. And this with the immigration question, and its multiplicity of languages and ideals, which has made unification of workers by workers the greatest social triumph in history.

These facts are ignored by the revolutionist, who sneers that the goal of our older unions is a few pennies wage increase.

The sneers are logical. The revolutionist hates the trade union as heartily as does the industrial autocrat.

They hate the thing they can not dictate or control.

ONE SPEECH WON'T BALANCE NUMEROUS ANTI-UNION ACTS

---PRESIDENT GOMPERS

Washington, July 7.—"Labor requires more than a speech to balance against the acts that have gone before," said President Gompers in a public statement on President Harding's speech at Helena, Mont., in which the chief executive discussed labor unions and capital.

"We believe the president is sincere in not wanting unions destroyed," said Mr. Gompers. "No sane person could want any such catastrophe. But we can not indulge in any tumult of applause over this late profession of faith, because the unions themselves have saved the day, and they have done this in spite of the official acts of some of the president's leading officials and advisors. For their existence today they owe no thanks to the administration.

"It is difficult to find in the injunctions brought by the Harding department of justice against the miners and the railroad workers any great effort to conserve the forces of organized labor. Those memories are not such as too short will recall that when the president's attorney general secured his injunction against the railroad workers, that attorney general said to the court: 'As long and to the extent that I can speak for the government of the United States I will use the power of the government to prevent the labor unions of the country from destroying the open shop.'

"The institution miscalled the open shop was and still is the principal agency in the employers' fight to destroy the unions which the president now declares he does not want destroyed.

"For the president's reference to 'some' on labor's side who 'hoped by exorbitant demands and an attitude of uncompromising insistence, to force the nationalization of some of our most important industries and services' we have not the same respect. Many will be puzzled at the president's effort to 'hold the scales even' between 'some' on labor's side and the acknowledged effort on 'capital's' side of the line' to send labor 'back to the era of individual bargaining for the individual job.'

"The labor movement has never stood for nationalization, though some unions have believed government ownership of certain basic industries would be beneficial. But a belief in government ownership is not a crime, and even if the whole labor movement stood for government ownership of basic industries that would not constitute a reason for joining government forces with the forces of private capital in a war on organized labor. It is not a proper function of government to 'hold the scales even' between a labor demand for government ownership and capital's demand for the destruction of organized labor.

"By this effort to say something that would make capital happy, the president marred what might otherwise have been an excellent and enlightened address."

LEASING CONVICTS UNDER PUBLIC FIRE

Birmingham, Ala., July 7.—A few months ago the Alabama state legislature extended the convict lease system until March, 1927. Since then a boy was flogged to death in a Florida convict camp, and the storms of protest that followed have swept into this state and the lease system is hanging by a thread. Alabama now has about 3,000 prisoners, and one-half of them are leased to coal companies. The convicts are given four classifications, according to their ability to be rewarded. The state receives $93 a month for class A prisoners and $63 for those in class D. During the past four years the state's profits averaged $845,000, and the profit this year is estimated at $870,000. The viciousness of the system is explained by Judge Fort of the tenth judicial circuit, this county:

"As soon as the convict begins his work each day he is turned over to guards employed by the mine, and from them he is turned over to the 'check runner,' a convict trusty who is held responsible for the work done. If the convict fails to meet the tonnage requirements of his classification he is punished."

It is shown that while the whipping strap has been abolished greater cruelties are practiced. One of these is the "dog house"—a coffin-like box so small that a man cannot move inside of it, in which convicts are fastened by their hands, and their feet scarcely touching the floor.

The waste of the system is indicated by this statement based on reports of the state mine inspector for 1921 and issued by the Alabama antileasing committee:

"Although there were more than 250 mines in operation in the state that year, 25 per cent of the men killed were convicts working in five mines. In other words, each of the convict mines averaged four deaths per year, while the 'free mines' had only one death in each four mines per year. There are over three times as many tons produced per life lost in 'free' mines as in convict mines."

R. R. "UNION" ADOPTS SHAMEFUL METHODS

Altoona, Pa., July 7.—The recent election by the Pennsylvania railroad's company "union" was by far "the worst ever pulled off by the organization, and violated every principle of fair dealing," says the Labor News, published in this city.

"The shop men were not given any choice, but to vote for one of the men on the ballot. The only choice of how they were to be represented did not figure at all, despite assurances of the management two years ago that at this time the men could change the system if they wished to do so. There was no opportunity to make a change from the present mis-representative form of representation.

"There is a growing resentment against those responsible for this situation and those who were elected are held in open contempt by most of the shopmen, who realize that a bona fide union is far superior to the one they are now compelled to work under.

"As a company 'union,' the rump committee is the biggest farce ever known, and is not possible as long as railroad officials make laws for the 'union,' conduct the elections, furnish 'runners' to gather up votes and run the whole proposition themselves."

IGNORE LAW VIOLATORS.

Baltimore, July 7.—The grand jury has set an example for law violators by dismissing charges against the foreman of a concern convicted of having had he worked employes 10 hours a day, in violation of the eight-hour law, and that he intended to continue that course.

President Broening of the Baltimore federation of labor appeared before the grand jury, where he was actually argued with as to the merits of the eight-hour law.

"I tried to point out to them," said the trade unionist, "that it was not for them to construe the law, but to see to it that it is enforced. This was my chief contention. It was plain to me that a majority of the jury was prejudiced. They seemed impatient at my attempt to offer evidence."

STATE UNIONS TO MEET.

Greensboro, N. C., July 7.—The annual convention of the North Carolina state federation of labor will be held in this city, August 13-15.

FINANCIERS WRECK RAILROAD NOW SUGGEST STATE CONTROL

Boston, July 7.—Following a 10-months' investigation, 30 New England business men recommend state control of the New Haven and the Boston & Maine railroads. It is declared that conditions on these two properties are so bad that the several states through which they operate must act to save these systems so necessary to the life of New England. This policy is preferable to bankruptcy proceedings, for if a receiver is appointed, the report states, this would be followed by a business depression.

The history of the New York, New Haven & Hartford is a sordid story of stock jobbing and railroad wrecking, which has culminated in a lockout of its shop men. The business men make indirect mention of this lockout when they refer to "the present excessive number of idle bad order freight cars."

Allied with the New Haven in incompetency is the Boston & Maine, another anti-union corporation. Both properties, the business men say, should be controlled, operated and financed by trustees appointed by the several states of New England.

It is also suggested that the states guarantee principal and interest of bonds issued by the trustees under state control. Where earnings do not equal fixed charges, it is proposed that state taxes be refunded.

State control would be made possible, according to the report, by "reorganizing" the two corporations to undergo voluntary reorganization, putting entire control in the hands of and selection of executive officers into the hands of the trustees.

As the two railroads are wrecked, physically and financially, the bondholders will possibly accept the hated doctrine of state control rather than lose their investments.

The extent of the New Haven's financial wreckage is indicated by the committee's statement that the railroad came within $517 of losing an even $5,000,000 net for four months of 1922. The road has debts of $127,824,201 that will mature the next 12 years, besides $19,219,000 for leases.

The collapse of these two railroads is complete. Their wreck has been brought about by men who are horrified at the mention of even slight government control of railroads, and who are forever preaching on the value of private initiative. Now a group of hard-headed business men call on the state to rescue these defenders of private initiative from their own incompetency.

MINERS AGAIN URGE 1922 WAGE DEMAND

Scranton, Pa., July 7.—The wage convention of anthracite mine workers have reaffirmed the same demands they adopted in January, 1922, and for which they fought for nearly six months.

The present agreement, which was entered into last September, expires August 31. The convention took no action on the question of suspending work if the negotiations extend beyond August 31. International President Lewis, who presided, told the convention that this could well be left to the good judgment of the officers.

The principal demands are a 20 per cent wage increase in the contract wage; $2 a day for day workers; a two-year contract; full recognition of the union; uniformity and equalization of day rates in all districts.

For all men employed in and about the mines; that where coal is paid for by the car it be paid for by weight, and examined, and that all other demands of a technical nature.

Because a vicious attack on International President Lewis was circulated among the delegates, several communists in the gallery were ejected from the hall.

DOES PRESIDENT OPPOSE BASIC WAGE INCREASE?

Washington, July 7.—An analysis of the president's "labor speech" at Helena, on June 29, would indicate that capitalists have been armed with a new weapon to resist wage increases in "our most important industries and services."

After recounting to his audience how some capitalists expected the administration to destroy trade unions, the president said:

"On the other side of the line were those who thought that exorbitant demands and an attitude of uncompromising insistence, to force the nationalization of some of our most important industries and services."

What "exorbitant demands," other than wages, could the president have in mind? What union has taken "an attitude of uncompromising insistence" except on wage increases to meet present-day living costs?

This portion of the president's address is a new reference to wage movements that will not pass unnoticed by industrial autocrats and cheap-labor advocates.

It may be seized by these employers as hungrily as by those who "open shop" as a device to destroy collective bargaining and thus make the unions impotent.

WANT CONVICTS WHIPPED

Raleigh, N. C., July 7.—A few counties in this state refuse to accept Governor Morrison's request that the whip be banished from county prisons. The chief executive has abolished the practice in the state prison, but it may be necessary to pass a state law before the county floggers are stopped.

CONTROL LABOR AGENCIES

Sacramento, Cal., July 7.—After a long fight the legislature has placed fee-charging labor agencies under state control. The movement was backed by organized labor and progressive citizens in every other walk of life.

COURTS ARE BLAMED FOR TOO MANY LAWS

Chicago, July 7.—Too many court decisions, rather than too many laws, is the trouble with the state, declares Secretary-Treasurer Olander of the Illinois state federation of labor.

"The courts have held that the surplus of laws is due entirely to a process of unwarranted law making which the courts have indulged in for many years," said the trade unionist.

"All the statute laws now effective in Illinois are the 153 legislative acts of Illinois during the past century are printed within the covers of a single volume. Does that volume contain the laws which govern the people of Illinois? Any person who is even casually familiar with the legal problems will smile at the question.

"Where, then, is the great mass of law to be found? To make the discovery many thousands of volumes containing court decisions must be searched, read and digested, and examined, and then it will be found that 'too many laws' is a condition for which the courts alone are responsible. Indeed, a great number of the statutes enacted by the legislatures were made necessary in order to undo the decisions of the courts.

"Whenever the people of Illinois or any other state desire some legislative action their representatives must turn to the judges for permission before undertaking to legislate. The entire subject has been muddled in a web of legalism now so involved that not even the best informed and most experienced lawyer can understand its intricacies."

HUGE COPPER PROFITS NO HELP TO LABOR

Phoenix, Ariz., July 7.—Copper barons in this state are rolling in wealth, while their workers are rewarded by low wages and poor working conditions. The profits of these barons is shown by the deportation from Bisbee of 1,150 workers, July 12, 1917. The workers were rounded up in cattle cars but no one has been punished for this outrage.

It is estimated that the profits hunger of the copper barons equals the "clean up" of 1916 to 1918 when their income "averaged a net profit of 53 per cent a year on their capital stock."

Another "clean up" is possible because the metal is now selling at 19 cents a pound. The world's consumption is 250,000,000 pounds a month, which would mean only 195,000,000 a month, which will force the price to 20 cents a pound before the end of the year.

While the copper barons are perfecting plans for this gouging of the public, they continue the blacklist and terrorize any employe who dares suggest that through organization a living wage can be secured.

JAPS TO CONTROL HAWAII

San Francisco, July 7.—Japanese control of the Hawaiian islands within 15 years is predicted by Congressman Raker in an address to the labor council. The national lawmaker declared that this control would be political as well as economic, and that a change must be made in the policies governing these islands if they are to remain under the American flag. Their control by the Japanese would give that country a naval base within a few days' sail of the western coast of the United States.

COMMUNISTS LAUD "WORKERS" PARTY

New York, July 7.—That the alleged "workers" party in the United States is a communist group, but lacks the nerve to so declare itself, is again proven by this message in the Worker, which is published in this city by the central executive committee of the workers' party:

"The workers' party has received the following communication from Gregory Zinoviev, chairman of the executive committee of the communist international:

"To the workers' party of America and all its language federations: Dear Comrades: It is with the greatest pleasure that the communist international has learned of the progress that the workers' party has made in the past few months. We are not only gratified at the militant spirit that has manifested itself in the party since the second convention in December, 1922. The unity of spirit, the determination to work and the general tactics to be applied, augur that, in the near future, the workers' party will assume its rôle of the truly communist mass parties of the world.'"

London, England, July 7.—By a card vote of 2,880,000 to 1,000,000 votes, the British labor party has again rejected the affiliation of the communists.

INDICTMENTS DROPPED; CAN'T CONVICT MINERS

Indianapolis, July 7.—On motion of Attorney General Daugherty, conspiracy indictments against 226 coal operators and officers of the United Mine Workers have been dismissed by Federal Judge Anderson. Mr. Daugherty told the court that "a verdict of not guilty would be the inevitable result of the trial." After this acknowledgment that he has no case, the attorney general said:

"Fair and lawful agreements must be entered into hereafter and the things complained of in the indictments in this particular case must be discontinued."

The humor of this statement can be appreciated when it is recalled that the attorney general had the indictments dismissed because no jury would support him. Now he warns miners and coal owners they must not enter into agreements that he stated in open court he could prove illegal.

The attorney general hinted of evil doings between employer and employe in this industry, but the public is given no information of what is declared to be a "conspiracy," and Mr. Daugherty intimates that he will let this awful "conspiracy" go unpunished.

The attorney general's statement sounds like the utterances of a man badly in need of excuses for his failure to "make good" a lot of threats he published several months ago. The abandonment of the charges will no longer make it possible for a certain element of the coal owners to refuse to sign an agreement with the miners because conspiracy charges will follow.

WORKERS' INJURIES COST $125,000,000

Albany, N. Y., July 7.—More than 100,000 claimants have shared in $125,000,000 paid to injured workmen and to dependents of those killed in industrial accidents in the nine years that the New York workmen's compensation law has been in operation, according to the state industrial commissioner.

Industrial accidents totaled more than 2,500,000 during the nine-year period, an average of about 280,000 yearly.

ENJOIN GARMENT MAKERS

Baltimore, July 7.—Garment workers on strike in this city have been handed the usual labor injunction. These unionists are affiliated with the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union. They want the union shop and the establishment of living conditions in the place the present haphazard work system.

LABOR COMMISSIONER DIES

Trenton, N. J., July 7.—Colonel Lewis T. Bryant, New Jersey state commissioner of labor, died suddenly in this city. The deceased official was a target for politicians, who would oust him for party purposes, but through merit the commissioner survived various administrations.

RAILROAD CENSURED; WOULD RULE WORKERS

Chicago, July 7.—The Pennsylvania railroad is again censured by the railroad labor board because of a refusal to permit railway clerks to select representatives outside the railroad's company "union." This controversy is similar to the shopmen's grievance, for which the railroad was first censured.

"The position of the Pennsylvania system in this matter is devoid of intrinsic merit, violative of the will of congress and destructive of the rights of employes," said the labor board. "The employes were not seeking any advantage over the railroad, and the railroad labor board had not presumed to encroach on the prerogatives of the management in any sense. The public should also understand that no question of wages, rules, discipline or management is involved.

The labor board indicates that it is confident congress will put "teeth" in the law and the board's decisions may be enforced.

"The evidence introduced by the employes shows the further fact that employes who had insisted upon the right of majority representation guaranteed by congress and declared by this board, had been harassed by officials of the carrier and coerced into an attitude of silent submission, or discharged from the service of the carrier.

"Notwithstanding the fact that the statute provides that a class of employes shall enjoy the right of selecting representatives of such class, one of the carrier's counsel before the board made this statement: 'We claim the right to deal with employes either through a majority or minority representation.'

"In other words the carrier arrogates to himself the privilege of treating with contempt the principle of majority representation, which is fundamental not only in the transportation act, 1920, but throughout the constitution and the institutions and laws of our land."

RAILROAD IS BLAMED FOR COAL SHORTAGE

Washington, July 7.—In its refusal to permit the Virginian railroad to build a spur into new mine properties, the interstate commerce commission shows how the railroad has failed to transport coal. This carrier is known as a "coal road," and the commission can only $63,000, but the commission said:

"The applicant is not now, nor has it been in the past able to furnish the number of cars ordered by the mines already opened and dependent upon it in order to keep up their supply. During the weekly periods from July 22, 1922, to June 9, 1923, inclusive, applicant failed in excess of 74 per cent of those required, and during only six weeks was the entire supply furnished in excess of 90 per cent. For 28 weeks of the above period the cars furnished the mines were less than 50 per cent of the requirements.

"The opening of new mines would not, therefore, increase the coal supply; in fact, it would reduce it unless the applicant's car supply was greatly increased."

Allen's Toothless Court Will Continue Its Bluff

Topeka, Kan. July 7.—The members of the Kansas industrial court have failed to accept Governor Davis' suggestion that they refrain from drawing salaries and by such action automatically abolish the "can't-strike" court.

The governor's action followed the failure of the commission to render a decision that the court has no power to set wages or enforce its decisions.

The governor has announced that the decision "seems to imply that every power and duty of the court, save that covered by the act creating and imposed upon other departments of the state government, has been taken away."

The recent state legislature, which opposes the governor, politically, appropriated funds for the court for the next two years. This makes it possible for the members of the court to hold their jobs, though the supreme court has shorn them of power.

WAGE LAW BEING FOUGHT

Tucson, Ariz., July 7.—Arizona wage working women are the latest to discover that if they would secure a living wage they must depend on themselves.

The last state legislature increased the minimum wage for women to $16 a week. The amendment is in the courts and the attorney general has stated that no attempt will be made to enforce the act until its legality is settled.

WALL STREET JOURNAL WARPS PUBLIC OPINION

New York, July 7.—In defending the railroad against the railroad labor board, the Wall Street Journal says:

"As constituted in the transportation act, the labor board was a body of a conciliatory nature, without means to enforce its decisions expressly designed to pass only upon railroad labor disputes when submitted to it. Observe the growth of bureaucracy. It now aspires to be a court with full power to enforce, as well as announce judge, jury and executioner. This alone would be a sufficiently wild extension of the powers granted in the Esch-Cummins act, but this self-constituted labor court proposes that it will not only provide the verdict and the sentence. It will provide the case. There is a dispute between the Pennsylvania railroad and the employes, the labor board claims the right to step in and settle and advise the organized workers!

There was a dispute between the railroads and considerable number of its employes who were refused the right to select their own representatives. The railroad labor board insists that the railroad permit employes to select their own representatives, but a statement issued by the Wall Street Journal comes to its defense with an amazing array of misstatements.

WAGE DEMAND CHECKED BY COMPANY "UNION"

San Bernardino, Cal., July 7.—The Santa Fe railroad's company "union" has used to stop the general agitation for a living wage on that system. The Labor Journal, published in this city, points out how they were tricked by this anti-union corporation:

"Who called the meeting at Chicago to consider the wage increase? President Storey of the Santa Fe. Why? Because he and other officials saw the handwriting on the wall, so they played their little game, 'company union' and let the men think they were getting a raise. The increase to be given, however, had been decided on before the representatives of the company 'union' were allowed to gather. The result was that when the managers said 9 cents an hour, time and a half for overtime after eight hours, seniority, etc., had been granted on the coast lines of the Southern Pacific and practically all of the old union conditions restored.

"The Santa Fe is not asleep to the operation of other roads, but they are just a little more cunning in their tactics. If the men can be bamboozled into believing they asked for an increase and received it without much fight, and that the company 'union' is more powerful than the old union, the Santa Fe is more than willing to help them along in this false doctrine. It pays them to do so."

WOULD SELECT LAWS THAT HE WILL OBEY

Philadelphia, July 7.—Replying to the railroad labor board's censure, President Rea of the Pennsylvania railroad says that the railroad company will obey those laws which suit its convenience. These laws are "mandatories," the "valid" laws—the others will be ignored.

PALTRY WAGES BY LAW.

Toronto, Ontario, July 7.—The Ontario minimum wage board has announced this minimum wage for girls and women in boot and shoe factories and leather manufacturing establishments:

Experienced worker in Toronto, $12.50 per week; in other large cities in the province, $11.50 per week; in cities and towns ranging from 5,000 to 30,000 population, $13 per week; in towns and villages of less than 5,000 population, $10 per week. For inexperienced adults the starting wage in Toronto will be $10 a week.

LABOR SHORTAGE CRY SILENCED BY UNIONS

Toronto, Ontario, July 7.—Representatives of the building trades unions have protested to the Dominion minister of labor against the government's planning immigrant building trades mechanics to come to Canada to fill "rush hour jobs" for three months of the year in this city.

This protest follows the collapse of a joint movement of workers and employers to secure legislation regarding the question and the alleged need for building trades immigrants. Government agencies were also interested in the survey.

The questionnaire was sent to the building trades unions and to contractors and builders in Canada. The latter practically ignored the request for facts, and a second appeal was forwarded them. This brought replies from 290 of the 800 contractors and builders, or 37 per cent.

Representatives of the contractors then insisted that the information they secured be left out of a report drawn by themselves, but the trade union representatives refused to budge from the position of a joint report, based on the replies from unions and contractors. This difference resulted in the unions writing their minister of labor.

"The object of the questionnaire was fully explained to each of the 800 building contractors," said the unionists. "The claim it can be fairly stated that the 63 per cent who did not reply to the questionnaire had all the building trades mechanics they required during the season of 1922-23, and anticipated no shortage for 1923-24. Those who did reply 37 per cent who sent in their replies divided in their opinions as to anticipated shortage in the season of 1923-24."

In concluding, the unionists call attention to the employers' own statements in regard to the number of mechanics employed during almost half of the year.

LONG WORKING HOURS CONDEMNED BY RABBIS

Cape May, N. J., July 7.—The eight-hour day was indorsed by the general conference of American rabbis, which adopted a report by its social justice commission.

The commission reported that it joined with the federal council of churches (Protestant) and the national Catholic welfare council in their June statement attacking the United States steel corporation for its failure to abolish the 12-hour day. The conference indorsed this action and authorized the commission to join with the Protestant and Catholic groups now in a survey of the seven-day week in industry and to unite with these two agencies in arousing public opinion to the inhuman character of such continual labor.

The conference indorsed the following industrial standards: The eight-hour day as the maximum for all industrial workers; a compulsory one day of rest in seven, the regulation of industrial conditions, secure for all workers a safe and healthful working environment, the abolition of child labor, social insurance against the contingencies of unemployment and old age."

STEEL RECORD SMASHED; NO LABOR SHORTAGE

Pittsburgh, Pa., July 7.—Records for the first half of 1923 show that the production of steel ingots is about 23,500,000 gross tons. This is the largest production in the six consecutive six months in the industry's history, and was made at a time when Gary/ism was screaming "labor shortage."

The figures reveal wartime production, when, all records were broken up to that time. The new record shows how reliable have been the figures of the steel trust's anti-immigration restriction not because of a labor shortage, but to lower wages through a surplus of workers.

BIG EQUIPMENT PROFITS.

New York, July 7.—The American car and foundry company, a railroad equipment corporation, announces a profit of $4,113,611 for the last fiscal year, after charges, federal taxes, and preferred dividends have been met.